

FOR EL CENTRO PROCESSING DOCTOR

I. Pre-existing conditions that have been more troublesome, so far as expense, and disposition of patients concerned:

(a) The age group with its conglomeration of degenerative and malignant sequelae common to this age group:

1. Cancer: lungs, bladder, skin, thyroid, etc.

2. Hypertension: with its strokes and etc.

3. Arthritis: painful joints, disabling, and etc.,

such as the recent case from Coachella Valley, Mr. Ortiz.

II. Syphilis: estimated to be about 15% of the sick population-- those presenting themselves to the doctors. And its complications, such as the present eye case now in the hospital that was sent to us from the northern part of the State -- this is undoubtedly a condition due to syphilis

Also the joint manifestations of arthritis -- the one sent in from Ontario about 2 years ago, and many other cases with epigastric pain -- epigastric crises and etc., from CNS lues.

III. Digestive disturbances: such as gall bladder disease, peptic ulcers, parasites, amoebic especially, and its complications such as amoebic abscesses, and etc.

IV. Genito-urinary disturbances: such as stones in the kidneys, and bladder, pre-existing -- hypertrophy of the prostate, which has been minimal, but if the age group is kept down, this should not be condition to contend with.

There will be the occasional nephritis condition, pre-existing and very hard to pick up unless it is done so on a detailed examination but these are few.

V. Heart Conditions: the pre-existing cases would be hard to determine, however irregularity of rhythm indicating old rheumatic fever, rheumatic hearts and luetic hearts might be picked up.

VI. Eye Conditions: such as pre-existing cataracts, pterygiums, and even blindness in one eye as recently claimed by a patient about a year ago from the Palo Verde area -- he claimed he had been well until struck in the eye by a cotton ball, but in fact had a cataract pre-existing for many years.

VII. Chest conditions: pre-existing tuberculosis are now being caught fairly well, however cases of asthma that are pre-existing would be very difficult to catch, or pick up but these are rare or minima and can be quickly treated so that the men are not disabled and can carry on until their contract expires.

VIII. Miscellaneous conditions: such as psychotic cases, or psychoneurotic cases would of course be extremely hard to detect on a cursory examination and might even be missed on a complete examination, being caught in one of their better moods.

Chronic and old pre-existing malarias would of course be difficult or impossible to detect.

Other cases such as typhoid that come in a prodromal or incipient stage would be difficult to detect, but could, as enumerated below.

Leprosy: could also be caught if in a florid and active stage that could be seen visibly.

(More)



WHAT TO DO TO AVOID SUCH:

There is no way to avoid having these men cross the border and not being detected unless they are properly examined and that would entail a first-class active energetic, observing doctor, with possibly one or two assistants (technicians) at the El Cen ro station, to have a routine inspection of, such as:

1. A short-arm, a rapid short-arm with all the clothes off to pickup any skin diseases, or obvious tumors such as of the thyroid, and etc. And also a rapid heart auscultation. The assistant to record temperatures, and to spend more time with the temperature cases as for further examinations.

2. The assistants to do routine blood pressures and to exclude all hypertensives.

3. Have a blood test, and/or a quick Kline test -- a 2-hour test to exclude the positive Wassermanns and also the malaria cases that usually show a positive Wassermann, though they may not all do so.

4. Also a stool examination especially in all febrile cases.

5. Urinalysis to be optional at times, depending on the load, and etc., but less would be learned from the urine than from the Wassermann test.

6. Also to exclude the group not according to the stated chronological age but according to the age of the tissues and the appearance; in other words the man may claim to be 45 but he has an age appearance of 55 or 65 to exclude him on that basis.

Once they are here the question of what to do about them depends on your obligations -- your contractual obligations. Some of these will lend themselves to quick routine, and repatriation, and others may have to be prolonged cases, such as cancers, psychotic individuals, such as tuberculosis, and etc.